

present and future forms

- 1 I'm **seeing** Sarah tomorrow. We're **having** lunch together.
- 2 I'm **going to** have my hair cut tomorrow.
She's **going to** get the last train home.
- 3 I'm **meeting** Cathy this evening. I'm **going to** tell her that it's all over.
- 4 I'll **be going to** the supermarket later – do you want anything?
Will we **be having** dinner at the usual time? I'm going to see a film and it starts at 8.00.
- 5 The train **leaves** in five minutes. Our classes **start** next Tuesday.

- 1 The present continuous is the most common way to talk about arrangements, i.e. fixed plans for the future, when the time and place have been decided.
- 2 *be going to* is the most common way to express future plans and intentions, and to imply that a decision has been made.
- 3 In most cases you can use either *going to* or the present continuous, but there is a subtle change of emphasis. The present continuous emphasizes that a time and place to do something has been decided; *going to* emphasizes the intention. Compare:
I'm meeting Cathy. (= We've arranged to meet.)
I'm going to meet Cathy. (= It's my intention, but arrangements may or may not have been made.)
We do not use the present continuous when it is clear that something is just an intention, not something that has been arranged NOT *I'm telling her that it's all over.*
- 4 The future continuous can often be used instead of the present continuous to refer to future arrangements.
- We sometimes use it to emphasize that we are talking about something that will happen anyway rather than something we have arranged. Compare:
I'm seeing Sarah tomorrow. (= I have arranged it.)
I'll be seeing Sarah at the party tomorrow. (= It will happen anyway, but I didn't arrange it.)
- It is often used to make polite enquiries about arrangements, e.g. *Will you be meeting us at the airport?*
- 5 We can also use the present simple to talk about future events which are part of a timetable or a regular schedule.

other ways of expressing future arrangements

- 1 My sister **is due to** arrive at 7.30. Can you meet her at the station?
 - 2 My sister **is about to** have a baby, so I need to keep my mobile switched on.
It is believed that the chancellor **is on the point of** resigning.
 - 3 It has been announced that the Prime Minister **is to visit** Malaysia next month.
- 1 *be due to* + infinitive can be used to say that something is arranged or expected.
 - We also use *due* on its own to mean 'expected', e.g. *The next train is due in five minutes.*
 - 2 We use *be about to* + infinitive to say that something is going to happen very soon.
 - We can also use *be on the point of* + gerund with a similar meaning, but this is slightly more formal and implies something is more imminent.
 - 3 We can use *be + to* + infinitive in a formal style to talk about official plans and arrangements.

- a Circle the right form. Tick if both are possible.

I see / (I'm seeing) some friends after class tonight.

- 1 The train *is going to leave soon / is about to leave.*
- 2 Don't call me between 5.00 and 6.00 as *I'll be having / I'll have* a massage.
- 3 A What are you going to do this evening?
B I'm not sure. I'm probably *going to watch / watching* the match.
- 4 When are you *going to pay me / paying me* back the money I lent you?
- 5 My dad *is retiring / will be retiring* at the end of this year.
- 6 My flight *is due to arrive / arrives* at 6.00.
- 7 You'll easily recognize me. *I'll be wearing / I wear* a white suit.
- 8 The King *is to open / is going to open* the new gallery on Saturday.
- 9 *I'll be seeing / I'm going to see* John at work tomorrow. I can give him your message then.

- b Look at the sentences you have ticked. Is there any difference in meaning or register between the two forms?

- c Rewrite the sentences with the **bold** word.

I'm meeting Myriam tonight.

GOING

I'm *going to meet* Myriam tonight.

- 1 We're going to go out in a minute. Could you ring me back later?
ABOUT

_____. Could you ring me back later?

- 2 Our head of department is going to be promoted in the next few months.

DUE

_____ in the next few months.

- 3 Are you going to the canteen at lunchtime? If so, could you get me a sandwich?

WILL

_____? If so, could you get me a sandwich?

- 4 The ministers are about to sign a new agreement.

POINT

_____ a new agreement.

- 5 James will be at the meeting so I'll see him there.

SEEING

_____ at the meeting.

ellipsis: leaving out subjects and auxiliaries

- 1 He got up **and (he) had** a shower.
She came to the meeting **but (she) didn't say** anything.
We should phone him **or (we should) send** him an email.
We usually have dinner at 10.00, and **then (we) watch** TV.
- 2 They locked the door and windows **before they left**.
We'll have a look at the photos **after we finish** dinner.
He's stressed **because he has** too much work.
She was horrified **when she saw** the mess he had left.
I met Sam **while I was working** in Italy.

- 1 After *and*, *but*, and *or* we often leave out a repeated subject or a repeated subject and auxiliary verb, especially when the clauses are short.
- After *then* we can also leave out a repeated subject pronoun.
- 2 You cannot leave out the subject pronoun after *before*, *after*, *because*, *when*, and *while*.

ellipsis: leaving out verb phrases or adjectives

- 1 Laura has never been to the States, but her sister **has**.
Gary thinks he's right, but he **isn't**.
I didn't like the film, but Mike **did**.
They said I would love the film, but I don't think I **would**.
- 2 I thought I **would be able to** come tonight, but in fact I **can't**.
I know you've never **learned to** drive, but I really think you **should have**.
A You **must** see his latest film!
B I already **have**.
- 3 I haven't been to Egypt, but I'd **love to**.
The students cheated in the exam, even though I **told them not to**.

- 1 We often leave out a repeated verb phrase or adjective, and just repeat the auxiliary or modal verb, or the verb *be*, e.g. *Laura has never been to the States but her sister has been there; Gary thinks he's right, but he isn't right*.
- If the verb we don't want to repeat is the present or past simple, we substitute the verb with *do / does / did*.
- 2 We can use a different auxiliary or modal verb from that used in the first part of the sentence.
- 3 We can also leave out a repeated verb phrase after the infinitive with *to*. This is called a reduced infinitive, e.g. *I haven't been to Egypt, but I'd love to (go)*.

substitution: *so* and *not*

- 1 I'll have finished the work by Friday, or at least I **hope so**.
A Will you be working on Saturday?
B I **suppose so**, unless we get everything done tomorrow.
Mark loves animals, and his sister **even more so**.
- 2 A Do you think it'll rain tonight?
B I **hope not**.
A She's not very likely to pass, is she?
B No, I'm **afraid not**.
The children may be back, but I **don't think so**.
I know she liked the present, even though she **didn't say so**.

- 1 We often use *so* instead of repeating a whole $\boxed{+}$ clause after verbs of thinking (*assume, believe, expect, guess, hope, imagine, presume, suppose, think*) and also after *be afraid, appear / seem*, and *say*.
- 2 With negative clauses we use $\boxed{+}$ verb + *not* (e.g. *I hope not*) with *be afraid, assume, guess, hope, presume, and suspect*.
- We normally use $\boxed{-}$ verb + *so* (e.g. *I don't think so*) with *believe, expect, imagine, and think*.

- a Cross out the words / phrases which could be left out.
They look happy, but they aren't really happy.

- 1 Everyone else loved the hotel we stayed in, but I didn't like it.
- 2 Nobody expects us to win, but you never know, we might win.
- 3 I didn't take the job in the end, but now I think that I should have taken it.
- 4 I got into the car and I turned the radio on.
- 5 A Would you like to come for dinner tomorrow night?
B I'd love to come to dinner, but I'm afraid I can't come.
- 6 We don't go to the theatre very often now but we used to go before we had children.
- 7 I won't be able to go to the exhibition, but my wife will be able to go.
- 8 We met in 2009 and then we got married in 2010.

- b Complete the sentences with a modal or an auxiliary verb in the right form.

I'd like to help you this week, but I can't.

- 1 I'm not vegetarian, but my wife _____.
- 2 I would love to fly a plane, but I know that I never _____.
- 3 Nobody believes me when I say that I'm going to resign, but I _____.
- 4 We thought that Karen would get the job, but she _____.
- 5 In the end they didn't come, even though they had promised that they _____.
- 6 If you haven't seen the film yet, you _____.
It's absolutely fantastic!
- 7 If I could help you, I would, but I'm afraid I _____.
- 8 I don't speak French, but my friend _____.

- c Write the responses using the right form of the verb in brackets and a reduced infinitive or adding *so* or *not*.

A Would you like to come round for dinner tomorrow?
B I'd love to. (love)

- 1 A The weather forecast said it would snow at the weekend.
B I _____. I was planning to do some gardening. (hope)
- 2 A Do you smoke?
B I _____, but I gave up last month. (use)
- 3 A If you think she's coming down with flu, you shouldn't send her to school tomorrow.
B I _____. She might infect the other children. (suppose)
- 4 A Have you spoken to Martin yet?
B No, but I _____ after the meeting. (try)
- 5 A Do you think we should leave early to miss the traffic?
B I _____, though I'm really enjoying myself. (guess)
- 6 A Why are you going to do a parachute jump?
B I don't know. I _____. (always / want)

When we want to focus attention on or emphasize one part of a sentence, we can do this by adding certain words or phrases to the beginning of the sentence. This is sometimes called a 'cleft sentence'.

More emphatic sentence

1 beginning with *What* or *All*

I need a coffee.	What I need is a coffee.
I don't like the weather here.	What I don't like here is the weather.
I just want to travel.	All I want is to travel.
I only touched it!	All I did was touch it.

2 beginning with *What happens is...* / *What happened was...*

You do a test and then you have an interview.	What happens is (that) you do a test and then you have an interview.
We left our passports at home.	What happened was (that) we left our passports at home.

3 beginning with *The person who...*, *The place where...*, *The first / last time...*, *The reason why...*, etc.

I spoke to the manager.	The person (who / that) I spoke to was the manager.
We stayed in a five-star hotel.	The place where we stayed was a five-star hotel.
I last saw him on Saturday.	The last time I saw him was on Saturday.
I bought it because it was cheap.	The reason (why / that) I bought it was that / because it was cheap.

4 beginning with *It*

A boy in my class won the prize.	It was a boy in my class who won the prize.
We had the meeting last Friday.	It was last Friday when we had the meeting.
They charged us extra for the wine.	It was the wine (that) they charged us extra for.

- 1 We can make some kinds of sentences more emphatic by beginning with *What* (= the thing) or *All* (= the only thing) + clause + *be*, and then the part of the sentence we want to emphasize.
- 2 To emphasize an event or sequence of events, we can begin with *What happens is (that)...* / *What happened was (that)...*
- 3 We can also make part of a sentence more emphatic by beginning with an expression like *The person who...*, *The place where...*, *The first / last time that...*, *The reason why...*, etc. + clause + *be*, with the emphasized part of the sentence at the end.
- 4 We can also use *It is / was* + the emphasized part of the sentence + a relative clause.

⚠ If the emphasized part is a pronoun, we normally use the object pronoun after *It is / was*, e.g. *It was me who paid the bill.* NOT *It was I who paid the bill.*

a Complete the sentences with one word.

- The last time I saw my brother was at his 40th birthday party.
- 1 _____ was my father who told me not to marry him.
 - 2 _____ I hate about Sundays is knowing you have to work the next day.
 - 3 The _____ why I want you to come early is so that we can have some time on our own before the others arrive.
 - 4 After you've sent in your CV, what _____ next is that you get called for an interview.
 - 5 It's not my fault you can't find them! _____ I did was tidy up your desk a bit.
 - 6 The _____ where we're going to have lunch is a sort of artist's café near the theatre.
 - 7 _____ happened was that I lost the piece of paper with my flight details on it.
 - 8 It was _____ who told Angela about the party. I'm terribly sorry. I didn't know you hadn't invited her.

b Rewrite the sentences with the **bold** word.

I only need a small piece of paper.

ALL

All I need is a small piece of paper.

- 1 She left her husband because he cheated on her.
REASON
_____ he cheated on her.
- 2 We stopped in an absolutely beautiful place for lunch.
PLACE
_____ was absolutely beautiful.
- 3 We got stuck in an enormous traffic jam.
HAPPENED
_____ we got stuck in an enormous traffic jam.
- 4 They didn't apologize for arriving late, which really annoyed me.
WHAT
_____ they didn't apologize for arriving late.
- 5 A girl from my town won the silver medal.
IT
_____ won the silver medal.
- 6 I only said that I didn't like her dress.
ALL
_____ that I didn't like her dress.
- 7 I like my Aunt Emily best of all my relatives.
PERSON
_____ is my Aunt Emily.
- 8 You pick up your tickets at the box office.
HAPPENS
_____ you pick up your tickets at the box office.
- 9 Right now you need to sit down and put your feet up.
WHAT
_____ to sit down and put your feet up.
- 10 I first met Serena at a conference in Berlin.
TIME
_____ at a conference in Berlin.